Control of commensal monkeys

*291. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating **any** action-plan for control of commensal monkeys in conflict situations;

(b) if so, whether any workshop has been held recently with the experts for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CWP No. 653 of 2003, an Expert Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment & Forests), to analyse the problem and suggest measures to control the menance of stray animals. This Expert Committee held 5 meetings to deliberate on the subject and formulated an Action Plan for Control of Stray Animal Menace (Monkeys, Stray Dogs, Stray Cattle and Pigs) in Shimla. However, the approach is capable of wider replication.

The Action Plan envisages the following steps: Phase I

1. Rehabilitation Conservation Reserves
2. Peri-urban areas waystations
3. Ban on Public feedings of monkeys
4. Involvement of the temple authorities as well as local bodies
5. Creating Public Awareness
6. Formulation of an effective coordinated plan for Sterilization of stray dogs.
7. Project formulation on Systematic Solid Waste Management Phase II

1. Implementation of Solid Waste Management project
2. Continuation of other steps initiated in Phase-I

Phase III

1. Sterilization of residual monkeys under the Central Government Animal Birth Control Scheme.

Passengers facilities at Buxar station

†*292. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds and thousands of passengers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh travel to and from Buxar railway station everyday;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Railways earns a large amount of revenue from Buxar, but still there is no retiring facility available there which is causing lot of inconvenience to the upper class passengers;

(c) if so, action being taken for expansion of proper facility to passengers at the railway station;

(d) whether there is any plan for halting the Rajdhani Express and other super fast trains thereat in view of the large number of upper class passengers travelling from Buxar railways station; and

(e) if so, by when it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) During the period from April, 2005 to February, 2006 on an average approximately 5762 passengers were booked per day from Buxar for various directions. However, separate details of passengers travelling from Buxar to various stations in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and back to Buxar are not maintained.

(b) and (c) The earnings from Passenger Traffic at Buxar during April, 2005-February, 2006 is Rs. 11,86,46,689/- (Approximate). A two bedded retiring room is already available at Buxar whose average occupancy during period from April, 2005 to February, 2006 has been 2% and as such the existing facility is more than adequate.

(d) There is no proposal at present to provide stoppage of additional trains at Buxar.

(e) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.